Claims

1.   A method for providing enhanced Internet telephony, including:

    (a) receiving a message from a source at an intermediate point;

    (b) sending at least a portion of the message from the intermediate point to a destination over the Internet;

    (c) sending a response to the message from the destination to the intermediate point over the Internet;

    (d) sending the response from the intermediate point to the source;

    (e) repeatedly sending other messages from the destination over the Internet to the intermediate point;

    (f) sending at least a portion of corresponding ones of the other messages from the intermediate point to the source; and

    (g) sending responses to the portions of the other messages from the source to the intermediate point.

2.   A method according to claim 1, wherein step (a) includes receiving the message at a router including at least one port having a time out period.

3.   A method according to claim 1, wherein step (e) includes sending the at least one of the messages within the time out period.

4.   An enhanced Internet telephony system, including:

    a message source;

    an intermediate point coupled to receive a message from the source and to send at least a portion of the message to the Internet;

a destination coupled to receive the message from the intermediate point, to send a response to the message to the intermediate point over the Internet, and to repeatedly send other messages over the Internet to the intermediate point;

wherein the message source is coupled to the intermediate point so as to send responses to the other messages.

5.   An enhanced Internet telephony system according to claim 4, wherein the intermediate point comprises a router including at least one port having a time out period.

6.   An enhanced Internet telephony system according to claim 5, wherein the destination comprises a server coupled to send at least one of the other messages within the time out period.

7.   An enhanced Internet telephony system according to claim 6, wherein the source comprises a media terminal adapter.